

Bundle 2'43

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\* THE MOONSHINER'S DAUGHTER \*

\* Property of Johnnie Speer.. \*

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"THE MOONSHINER'S DAUGHTER"

CAST

BILL CROW ..... ROUGH HEAVY  
FRANK FARNUM ..... LEAD  
RASTUS ..... BLACKFACE COMEDY  
DAISY ..... SOUBRETTE LEAD  
HEPSY LOWRY ..... CHARACTER OLD WOMAN

SETTING

The exterior of Hepsy Lowry's cabin in the hills of the Cumberland. Hills and High pine trees and set cabin on the L. Bench down R. of stage.

PROPS

Shotgun  
Revolver  
Rope  
Water bucket  
Bench  
Whiskey jug  
Bags or suitcase for Frank  
Bunch of wild daisies for Daisy  
Corn cob pipe for Hepsy

## "THE MOONSHINER'S DAUGHTER"

## RISTUS

(ENTERS CARRIES BUCKET) Doggone! I'se just so tired ah just cain't make it. The Missus done told me to get some water fo' her but ah got to rest first, or I'll be havin' a relapse. (LAYS ON BENCH GOES TO SLEEP. SNORES)

HEPSY LOWRY

(INTERS L.) Where's that good for nothin' no 'count nigger? Rastus!  
E--Rastus Brown! ~~kenekak~~ Sent him after a bucket of water an hour  
ago. (SEES HIM ON BENCH) There he is! (SHAKES HIM) Wake up! Wake up!  
You low down shuffling hound dog!

R. STUS

Yes'm! Ah's gettin' up. Is--is it momin' yet?

## HEPSY

Is it morning? What do you think it is? Where's that water I sent you after?

## RASTUS

Missus Hepsy, ah done went down to that well for that water, and when ah I was down there, ah done forgot to bring the pail so ah had to come back up and get it, and then the misery in ma feet jest hurt me so bad ah had to lay down.

## HEPSY

Rastus, you're so lazy the dead lice won't drop off of you. I've told you to keep awake and keep an eye open for Revenue Officers that might be snoopin' around tryin' to locate my still.

RASTUS

Ah aint seen no revenuers for the longest time!

H ~~PSY~~

RASTUS

(LAUGHS) Ah don't think they'd have much luck! Yo' all got a more powerful wallop then a ten ton jackasss.

## HEPSY

I aint never forgot that it was a revenue officer that shot my husband in the back. Damn 'em! (PUTS PIPE TO HER MOUTH) I'll get even some day. Every dog has his day.

## RASTUS

Yes'm. Remember dat ole sayin'--every dog has his day, and the dog with a short tail has a week end!

## HEPSY

Some day a revenue officer is going to walk right into my hands, and I'm gonna shoot him--but it won't be in the back it'll be in the heart.

(LAUGHS) Do you know what I'd do if I found a prohibition agent right now. Ras tus?

RASTUS

No. What would you all do?

I'd take him like this. (GRABS RASTUS) And I'd throw him like this, and then I'd push him this way and then I'd throw him down (THROWS RASTUS DOWN AND PUTS FOOT ON HIM) Ahhha! The world is mine! (BILL CROW ENTERS)

R. U.)

RASTUS

Well, take your foot off of my county seat!

BILL CROW

(COMING DOWN A LITTLE AND LAUGHING GRUFFLY) What's the matter, Hepsy? You and Rastus have any words before you fell out?

HEPSY

Naw, I was just showin' him how I'd treat the man who shot my husband in the back.

RASTUS

Ah showas a damn fool for wantin' to find out! (RUBS HIMSELF)

HEPSY

(TURNING ON RASTUS AGAIN) And that aint all I do. Do you know what else I'd do? Do you want to know? (REAL QUICK IN HIS FACE) Do you know?

RASTUS

Hell no! And I don't give a damn! (EXITS L. U.)

BILL

Want to watch out this time of year is about the time they usually swarm around these here hills, Hepsy. I'm keepin' my trigger eye open for 'em. There was stranger happened in at Big Pine today. Says he's an artist, and that he wants to paint pictures of these here surroundings.

HEPSY

Well, he'd better be sure ha's a painter! Say, Bill, I want you to help me with a batch of mash. I just run off a mess day before yesterday.

BILL

Where's Daisy, Hepsy?

HEPSY

Lord only knows where the girl is. She's moonin' around the hills some where. The girl gets more useless every day she's alive. I've been trying to learn her to make moonshine, and she can't even drink it let alone brew it!

BILL

Well, when I marry her, I'll make somethin' useful out of her. She'll get off her high horse---and learn to be a regular wife.

HEPSY

Well, its about time the girl was becoming your wife. I've told her to go ahead and take you. She can't find no better around these here parts.

BILL

Well, I'm glad you say so. When you come to think of it I'm about the best man around here for miles I guess.

HEPSY

Yep! Your the best man. (LOOKS AT HIM HALF SNEER) That aint sayin' much for the rest of the men tho'.

BILL  
You old hag, you've always got to have your jokes. (SLAPS HER LIGHTLY)

HEPSY  
(HITS HIM HARDER) You're the biggest joke around here!

BILL  
Does Daisy know that she is not your real daughter, Hepsy?

HEPSY  
No! I aint never told her. I wish I could find out who she really belonged to. I'd see that her folks claimed her. Daisy was never meant for this kind of a life.

DAISY  
(ENTERS R. U. WITH RASTUS WHO IS JUST DRAGGING ALONG) Come on, Rastus! Bring that pail of water! Mother, I brought slow poke back with the water. If I hadn't of he'd have gone to sleep on well, and he might have fell in.

RASTUS  
Lawsy, Miss Daisy ah's got the misery in my feet. I can't move fast!

HEPSY  
You lazy thing, in a minute, I'll give you a good kick, and you'll have the misery somewhere else!

RASTUS  
No you won't. Ah already got the misery there. Ah's the misery all over!

HEPSY  
(LOOKS AT BUCKET) Well, where's the water. Look there's only a third of a bucket full.

DAISY  
(LAUGHING) I'll bet the water plum evaporated it took him so long to get it.

HEPSY  
It's a good thing I didn't want this water to take a bath in. I just happened to want it for a drink. (EXITS IN THE HOUSE L. WITH BUCKET)

RASTUS  
Ef ah had known she's gonna drink dat water ah wouldn't a bathed my feet in before I come up here!

DAISY  
Oh, Rastus, shame on you for saying that. Now I won't be able to drink any water for a week.

BILL RASTUS  
Guess you'll have to drink moonshine.

DAISY  
No moonshine for me!

BILL  
Guess, you think you're too good ~~duck~~ ~~duhnduhnduh~~ to drink moonshine. Moonshine never hurt any one. I drink it all of the time and look at me.



RASTUS  
She's afraid they might turn out to be prohibition agents. She done told me always to keep an eye on anything that looked like a revenue.

FRANK

Well, do I look like a revenue?

RASTUS

It aint so much what you look like it's what you am. You all say you paint pictures? Does you paint barns, fences, and woodsheds?

FRANK

Nothing like it. I paint beautiful scenery, landscapes and I make a specialty of flowers. Why I painted a flower once and it was so natural that the bees lit on it and tried to sip the honey from my painting.

RASTUS

Go on, man! I had a brother dat was a great painter too. One day he done painted a picture of a chicken, and it was so natural dat when he threw it in the waste basket, it laid there!

FRANK

(LAUCHS) You're quite a humorist. But where is the lady who owns the place. I'm going to ask her for a place to sleep.

RASTUS

Believe me if yo' all is tryin' to disguise yo'self and yo all happen to be ~~real~~ revnuer, you all better go on, cause Miss Hepsy sho' will kill you.

FRANK

Why should she kill me. There isn't any liqour on this place is there?

RASTUS

Ah I aint gonna tell you. Of course there aint no liqour here.

HEPSY

(ENTERS FROM HOUSE DRUNK. CARRIES A JUG) Whoopee! I'm crocked and I don't give a hoot!

FRANK

(SMILES. TO RASTUS) Did you say there was no liqour on this place?

HEPSY

(STOPS TURNS COLD ON SEEING FRANK) Who be you, stranger?

FRANK

Allow me to introduce myself, madam. I am Frank Farnum. I came down here to paint pictures, and enjoy the climate. Could I get a room here?

HEPSY

You could, but you're not going to. I don't want strangers around here. Clear out!

FRANK

Madam, why do you do this? You haven't given me a chance. I'll pay you ~~well~~ for allowing me to stay here.

HEPSY

Mighty fine lot your money would do if you be a revenue officer. That's about all strangers come up here for.

FRANK  
Well, to show you I'm a good fellow I'll take a drink with you!  
(TAKES JUG FROM H.R.)

HEPSY  
Go ahead! The last revenue agent died from two shots of this.

FRANK  
Huh? (LOOKS AT JUG A MINUTE. SHE GIVES HIM DIRTY LOOK) Oh well! (DRINKS  
SPITS GASPS FOR AIR) Oh my god!

HEPSY  
(LAUGHS) If it kills him, I'll swear he's a revenuer. It take a real  
man to live and drink my stuff!

FRANK  
Madam, you'll never get arrested for makin' moonshine--that's T. N. T.!

RASTUS  
What's the matter with you, man? Dat's good moonshine. It's tested.

FRANK  
Tested! How do you test that whiskey?

RASTUS  
Well, we got three rules for testing whiskey! First you drop a sledge  
hammer in it: if it floats, it's poor; if it sinks, it's fair; if it  
dissolves, it's perfect!

HEPSY  
Stranger, I've decided to let you stay here at my cabin. Go in and  
lay down your bags. There's some corn pone in there, and some sow  
belly.

FRANK  
Thank you! (EXITS IN HOUSE L.)

HEPSY  
Rastus, we will keep an eye on him. I suspicion that man, but I'm going  
to let him stay here and watch him. If he's a revenuer I'll get to be  
the first one to shoot him. (EXITS HOUSE L.)

RASTUS  
She sure will do it too!

DAISY  
(ENTERS WITH BUNCH OF WILD DAISYS) Hello, Rastus.. See the pretty flowers  
I picked. I just love them! I'm going to show them to mother.

RASTUS  
Better not go in there. They's a man done come here to stay. He says  
he's picture maker, your mammy thinks he's somethin' else tho.

FRANK  
(ENTERS FROM HOUSE) Oh! I can see the scenery is getting better.

DAISY  
Are you going to live here with us?

FRANK  
Yes. What's your name?

My name is Daisy!

FRANK

And you're just as lovely as the daisies that you hold in your hand.  
Believe me you're a daisy!

RASTUS

Yo' all better be careful and not try to pick that daisey!

FRANK

I've already plucked the daisy! Come! Will you show me about the place  
my little wild flower?

DAISY

Yes, come with me--Mister, ---why I don't even know your name!

FRANK

Just call me Frank for short. (THEY EXIT TOGETHER R. U.)

RASTUS

Doggone dat aint gonna get it! Ole Missus Hepsy see her shin' up to  
dat feller and forgettin' about Bill Crow and dat gonna be trouble.  
Well, my miseryssbotherin' me again so I guess I'll go take a nap!

\*\*\*\*\* NUMBER TWO \*\*\*\*\*  
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HEPSY

(ENTERS L. WITH RASTUS) Listen here, Rastus, that revenue officer has  
been here two whole weeks, and he and Daisy are together all of the time.  
First thing we know her head will be turned by his fine manners. I want  
you to follow them, and see that they don't start making love. Keep  
those two separated. Do you hear me?

RASTUS

Yes'm. I'll get on their scent just like a blood hound!

BILL

(ENTERS R. U.) Howdy, Hepsy. Where's Daisy? Out with that city  
stranger again I suppose. What ever turned you to let him stay here.  
All the rest of the folks around here drove him off.

HEPSY

I know what I'm doin', Bill Crow. Any time they catch old Hepsy Lowry  
asleep it's gonna be cause somebody shot her in the back like they did  
my husband. (EXITS HOUSE)

RASTUS

Sho' would be too sad if ole Hepsy ~~know~~ ~~even~~ dat you shot her husband in  
the back, Bill Crow.

BILL

Well, she'll never know it unless you tell her, and if you ever tell?  
---remember I've got ten friends in these hills that would see you  
swinging from the tallest tree in big pine. Back and forth your body  
would ~~sway~~ in the wind, and crows and buzzards wuld knaw at your flesh

RASTUS

(SCARED) Oh, man, shut your buxiness. I aint gonna tell. Sho was  
dirty tho'---you didn't get no thin' by killin' him any way.

BILL

I know it! I thought when I got old man Dowry out of the way I could get ahold of his moonshine still, but there's no chance of getting it away from old Hepsy. But then if I can marry Daisy, I figure I'll be settin' any way.

RASTUS

Why fo? Daisy aint got no money.

BILL

That's all you know about it. Daisy aint Hepsy's real flesh and blood daughter. Daisy was found when she was a little baby all wrapped up in a little bundle down by the old millstream at Higgins Cross. Papers found with her prove that she is the daughter of a rich man in New-York city who only recently died, and the lawyers are hunting for the heiress to his estate.

RASTUS

And yo' all aint gonna tell Daisy about it until after you forces her to marry you, then you figurin' on sharin' her fortune! Man, I sho is glad I met you in my life.

BILL

Why?

RASTUS

Because when I gets around you I feels almost like a white man, yo am so black in comparison.

BILL

Why you---(STARTS TO HIT HIM)

DAISY

(ENTERS R. U. WITH FRANK) Bill Crow! What are you doing? You leave Rastus alone.

BILL

I'm not in the habit of being told what to do by a woman. Usually I tell a woman what to do, and when I decide to marry one, I don't expect any interference. (STARTS TO DAISY)

FRANK

(STEPS IN BETWEEN HER AND BILL) Well, when you start after this one, Mister, you'll get interference and plenty of it.

BILL

Mighty big talk for a stranger to be spoutin' off, specially when folks are talking of hangin' him for a revenue agent.

FRANK

You seem to be quite sure that I am that!

BILL

You're not in these hills for any good reason.

FRANK

That remains to be seen!

BILL

Well, stranger, I'll soon find out what you be doing, and when I do I'll see that you get yours. (EXITS R. U.)

FRANK  
You want to be careful that you don't get yours! Daisy, let's go take a walk along the ridge. I want to give you some more--

RASTUS

You all aint gonna give her nothin'. Miss Hepsy done told me to watch you two.

DAISY

Rasuts, you better mind your own business. Frank is teaching me how to read and speak good English. Since he's been here I've learned more than I ever did in my life.

RASTUS

You all want to watch him. He's liable to teach you something besides English. Folks around here say he's a revenuer.

DAISY

Frank, I wish you would settle that. Tell me---I know you wouldn't lie to me---are you here looking for moonshine stills?

FRANK

Daisy ---I--would it make any difference to you if I were?

DAISY

No, I would still love you. But if you are lying and sneaking about it to me, I shall despise you.

FRANK

Daisy, I will not lie to you. I--am a revenue agent. There! Now I've told you. I guess I'd better get ready and leave here.

DAISY

No, I don't want you to leave. Stay here, but don't let mother know that you are here after moonshine, becaus e she'd kill you. Frank, you wouldn't cause her trouble would you even if you caughter?

FRANK

Duty is duty, Daisy. But I'm going to fail in my duty in one way. When I find the still I am looking for. I am going to destroy it and let your mother go free. How will that be?

DAISY

All right! Mother wouldn't be better off if she didn't have that moon around her. Come now! Let's take our walk together! (THEY EXIT R. U.)

RASTUS

Ah shohates to have to follow them to but I got to do my duty! Missus Hepsy would kill me if I didn't! (EXITS R. U.) Don't you two go too fast I gotta follow you.

HEPSY

(ENTERS FROM HOUSE WITH JUG) Well, I think I'll get stewed again. That's about all there is to do down in this country--fish and drink moonshine--and I never did like to fish. (DRINKS FROM JUG)(SMACKS LIPS) That's gettin' better every day. Wonder where that Daisy gal is? I hope that nigger is watchin' her and that stranger. (CALLS) Daisy! Daisy! Where be ye?

RASTUS

(ENTERS BACKING ON) Doggone! Ah don't know whether dat's right or not.

HEPSY

Rastus, Where's Daisy? Didn't I tell you to follow her and that feller?

RASTUS

Yes'm dats just what I done. I walked right behind 'em fo' the longest time, den him and her went behind a great big rock and ---

HEPSY

Well, go on!

RASTUS

Well, dat Mister Frank done give me a quarter not to look, and I---

HEPSY

You good for nothing, black rascal, why didn't you look?

RASTUS

Well, I did look, and--and then he done give me fifty cents not to come back for an hour. I didn't think no damage could be done in just a hour, so I--I left him.

HEPSY

You crazy fool by one hour the way these city folks work, a whole lot could be done. I've got to go get them; (EXITS R. U.)

RASTUS

I don't think nothin's gonna be done. They was talkin' about readin' books, and the study of the stars and the moon, and he done told her to come out tonight, and he show her the auraboreallis! Maybe that migh bear lookin' into, but right now my misery's botherin' me so I guess I better go to sleep. (EXITS)

\*\*\*\*\* NUMBER THREE \*\*\*\*\*

HEPSY

(ENTERS R. U. DRAGGING FRANK BEHIND HER. A ROPE TIED AROUND HIM? A SHOT GUN IN ONE OF HER HANDS AND A JUG OF WHISKEY IN THE OTHER ONE) Come on you no good yeller hound. I thought along what ye was. Ye thought ye were puttin' somethin' over on me. (LAUGHS) Well you didn't. You can't fool old Hepsy Lowry!

RASTUS

(ENTERS R. U.) What's a matter, Missus Hepsy?

HEPSY

I just caught this revenuer snooopin' around my still. Tryin' to get evidence. Well, it won't do you no good 'cause I'm gonna kill you.

RASTUS

I sho'ndone warned you mister not come around this heah place.

HEPSY

Look at him! Standin' there. Aint he proud. (TAKES A DRINK) Here's to prohibition---and the damn fools that try to make it a law! I'll show you what I think of you and your kind.

FRANK

Madam, you are mistaken in me. I meant you no great harm.

HEPSY

No greater hamr than sending me to jail for life or shootint me in the

back. Well, I'm not gonna be like your kind. I'm gonna shoot you in the heart. Do you get me? In the heart! (LAUGHS) Get ready for it. Down on your knees and beg. Whine!

FRANK

No! Thanks! I'll take my medicine standing up! (BILL ENTERS R. U.)

HEPSY

The hell you will! Maybe you think I won't shoot! (RAISES GUN) I'm gonna send that bullet straight through your heart. (WAVES AND GUN SWAY)

FRANK

(SMILING) Are you sure you can send it straight through?

HEPSY

I'll fix you! I'll fix you! I can shoot straight all right. (STAGGERS GUN SWAYS SO IT IS POINTING TO RASTUS) I'll pull the trigger, and--

RASTUS

(DISCOVERS THE GUN IS POINTING AT HIM) Look out, fool! (DROPS ON KNEES)

FRANK

Well, my dear madam, if you're going to shoot me, I wish you'd do it quickly and get it over with. I have an important engagement!

HEPSY

Don't make fun of me, you cuss. I'll show you. (RAISES RIFLE STANDS RIGID AND STRAIGHT POINTS GUN PULLS BACK TRIGGER) One--two---

DAISY

(RUNS ON R. U. AND RUNS TO FRANK L. STANDS IN FRONT OF HIM) Mother, if fire that gun you must kill me first!

HEPSY

Get away from him! Get away from him! I'm gonna shoot his heart out.

DAISY

(HOLDING GUN) Mother, you're drunk. You don't know what you are doing Please! Let me have that gun.

BILL

Let her alone! That's what he deserves. Ten to one he's one of the fellers that shot her husband in the back. Go ahead! If she can't fire the gun, I can. (GRABS GUN)

DAISY

You leave that gun alone. Don't you touch it!

BILL

Get away! (SHOWS HER) I know he's your lover, but He's gonna get his dues. (RASTUS UNTIES FRANK)

FRANK

(DRAWS GUN) All right! I think I'm the one to dish out the justice now. Throw up your hands. You're all under arrest!

HEPSY

He's got us!

BILL

Well, he hasn't got me. (STARTS)

Stand where you are, or I'll drop you on the spot, Bill Crow.

RASTUS

Yessa, mam! You'll be a dead crow.

BILL

You untied him, you black wretch. You'll get strung up for this!

RASTUS

Maybe I will, but I'm gonna tell something on you before I does. Missus Hepsy, you aint got no right to accuse prohibition agents for shootin' your ole man in the back, for it weren't no revener done it.

HEPSY

Who was it then?

RASTUS

It was Bill Crow himself. He done it to try and get ahold of your still

BILL

It's a lie!

HEPSY

Bill Crow, you shot my husband for my still, did you? So you're the sneakin' hound that done it, and you tried to lay it on a revener. Well, you know what I said I'd do to the man who shot him.

BILL

(SCARED) I didn't do it. That nigger lies. (STARTS BACKING OUT R. U.)

HEPSY

He aint got brains enough to lie. (TAKES RIFLE) I'll get you! Take your medicine. (EXITS AFTER HIM WITH GUN)

RASTUS

Course I don't lie---I aint got brains--what the--who can't lie. I got as much brains to lie as anybody, but dat am de truff. I never had nerve enough to tell it till just now.

DAISY

Oh I hope Mother doesn't do anything foolish.

RASTUS

There's sumthin' else I got to tell. Missus Hepsy aint your real mother. She and her old man found you when you was a baby and they raised you like their own. You know them papers Missus Hepsy's got in the cabin. Well them was found on you, and of course they weren't nobody around her could read 'em, but they prove that you are the heiress to a big estate somewhere.

DAISY

Me---heiress! Oh, Rastus! Frank! I'm so happy. I can hardly believe it!

FRANK

Well, Daisy, now you are going to leave these hills and go to the city and learn the ways of a different life. You see my parents are also very wealthy and I don't have to be a revenue officer unless I want to. I only did it for the excitement.

Well, Hepsy may not be my real mother but I love her just the same and she must go with us.

FRANK

Of course! ~~djdjdgdgdgdgdg~~ We'll all leave this old place.

RASTUS

'Speet ah'll be left here all alone with the chickens then, huh?

FRANK

No, Rastus, we'll take you with us and you can be our chauffuer. Do you know what that is?

RASTUS

Sure! Shove her in low, shove her in second, shove her in high shove on the brake!

FRANK

But before I resign from the prohibition force I'm going to send Bill Crow up--that is if Hepsy Lowry hasn't already dealt with him.

HEPSY

(SHOOTS OFF STAGE AND ENTERS R. U. HOLDING GUN AND LOOKING GRIMLY OFF R.

DAISY

Mother! What have you done?

HEPSY

(TURNING) I've just shot a pole cat!

DAISY

Oh mother, Frank is going to take us all to the city to live. Rastus has told me who I really am and I've got loads of money coming to me, and Frank's got lots of money, and we're going to take you and Rastus and live in a big swell mansion made of solid gold. How does that sound to you?

HEPSY

Rotten!

FRANK

Why, Hepsy, why don't you want to go to the city to live?

HEPSY

Because they aint got no stills there? And there's just one thing I want?

FRANK

And what is that?

HEPSY

Moonshine! and plenty of it. (TAKES BIG SWIG OF JUG)

F I N A L E